

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. - 4. (CANCELLED)

5. (NEW) A slope measurement instrument, comprising in combination:

a magnetic base;

a compartment attached to the magnetic base, the compartment having an inner face and a clear outer face, with the inner face having indicia of angular graduations thereon, the indicia being viewable through the clear outer face;

the angular graduations being arranged in a semi-circular pattern with a zero grade position at the bottom and increasing angles indicated on either side of the bottom;

an indicator needle pivotally suspended so that gravitational forces acting on the needle cause the needle to point to the zero grade position when the instrument is positioned at a zero degree grade; and

a fluid disposed within the compartment between the inner face and the outer face to stabilize movement of the needle.

6. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 5, further comprising an adjustable pointer that can be set at a desired slope, whereby a user can maintain a desired grade by matching the indicator needle with the adjustable pointer.

7. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 5, wherein the adjustable pointer is attached to a rear side of the compartment and can be rotated to a desired grade.

8. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 7, wherein the adjustable pointer is locked to the desired grade using a wing nut.

9. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 5, wherein the fluid comprises glycerin oil.

10. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 5, wherein the angular graduations are arranged in the semi-circular pattern with a zero grade position at the bottom and increasing angles to 90 degrees indicated on either side of the bottom.

11. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 5, wherein the fluid fills the compartment approximately 3/4 full.

12. (NEW) A slope measurement instrument, comprising in combination:

a magnetic base;

a cylindrical compartment attached to the magnetic base, the compartment having an inner face and a clear outer face, with the inner face having indicia of angular graduations thereon, the indicia being viewable through the clear outer face;

the angular graduations being arranged in a semi-circular pattern with a zero grade position at the bottom and increasing angles indicated on either side of the bottom;

an indicator needle pivotally suspended so that gravitational forces acting on the needle cause the needle to point to the zero grade position when the instrument is positioned at a zero degree grade;

a fluid disposed within the compartment between the inner face and the outer face to stabilize movement of the needle; and

an adjustable pointer that can be set at a desired slope, whereby a user can maintain a desired grade by matching the indicator needle with the adjustable pointer, wherein the adjustable pointer is attached to a rear side of the compartment and can be rotated to a desired grade.

13. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 12, wherein the adjustable pointer is locked to the desired grade using a wing nut.

14. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 12, wherein the fluid comprises glycerin oil.

15. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 12, wherein the angular graduations are arranged in the semi-circular pattern with a zero grade position at the bottom and increasing angles to 90 degrees indicated on either side of the bottom.

16. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 12, wherein the fluid fills the compartment approximately 3/4 full.

17. (NEW) A slope measurement instrument, comprising in combination:

a magnetic base;

a cylindrical compartment attached to the magnetic base, the compartment having an inner face and a clear outer face, with the inner face having indicia of angular graduations thereon, the indicia being viewable through the clear outer face;

the angular graduations being arranged in a semi-circular pattern with a zero grade position at the bottom and increasing angles indicated on either side of the bottom;

an indicator needle pivotally suspended so that gravitational forces acting on the needle cause the needle to point to the zero grade position when the instrument is positioned at a zero degree grade; and

a fluid disposed within the compartment between the inner face and the outer face to stabilize movement of the needle, wherein the fluid comprises glycerin oil.

18. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 17, further comprising an adjustable pointer that can be set at a desired slope, whereby a user can maintain a desired grade by matching the indicator needle with the adjustable pointer.

19. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 18, wherein the adjustable pointer is attached to a rear side of the compartment and can be rotated to a desired grade.

20. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 18, wherein the adjustable pointer is locked to the desired grade using a wing nut.

21. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 17, wherein the angular graduations are arranged in the semi-circular pattern with a zero grade position at the bottom and increasing angles to 90 degrees indicated on either side of the bottom.

22. (NEW) The slope measurement instrument according to claim 17, wherein the fluid fills the compartment approximately 3/4 full.

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